[22nd September 1947

Supply of mid-day meals in compulsory elementary education areas of South Kanara.

* 57 Q.—Sri D. MANJAYA HEGDE: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the mid-day meals provided for the school-going children in the compulsory elementary education areas in South Kanara and especially in Beltangady sub-taluk have never been supplied properly and have been dropped now altogether; and

(b) if so, what the reason is, for withdrawing such help?

The Hon. Sri T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:— "(a) & (b) The Government have no information on the point. The Government have issued orders discontinuing the scheme of supply of mid-day meals to poor children from 1st April 1947, not only in South Kanara district but also in all other districts in the Province."

Sri D. MANJAYA HEGDE:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are going to supply mid-day meals to give encouragement to elementary education?"

The Hon. Sri T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:— "The Government are prepared to encourage elementary education without this mid-day meals."

Discontinuance of free mid-day meals in compulsory elementary education areas.

* 58 Q.—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to abolish the system of free mid-day meals in the compulsory education areas and whether they have communicated their decision to the concerned authorities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the strength and attendance in schools improved after the introduction of mid-day meals;

(c) whether the Government have changed the policy enunciated by them that free mid-day meals and compulsory education should go together;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider their decision in view of the effects of the discontinuance of mid-day meals on the spread of elementary education;

(e) whether representations have been received requesting Government to reconsider their decision; and

(f) whether the Government propose to issue instructions for the continuance of mid-day meals till a decision is arrived at?

The Hon. Sri T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:— "(a) Yes.

"(b) The Government have no definite information on the point.